

Analysis: The identification and characterization of coding regions was carried out as follows: First, repetitive sequences were masked using RepeatMasker (A. F. A. Smit & P. Green, unpublished results http://ftp.genome.washington.edu/RM/RM_details.html) which screens DNA sequences in FastA format against a library of repetitive elements and returns a masked query sequence. Repeats not masked were identified by comparing the sequence to the GenBank database using WUBLAST (Altschul, S & Gish, W., Methods Enzymol. 266: 460-480 (1996) and were masked manually.

Amendments to the Title:

Please replace the title with the following, as suggested by the Examiner:

Nucleic Acids Encoding PRO344 Protein

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the abstract with the following:

The present invention is directed to nucleic acids encoding a secreted polypeptide that inhibits neoplastic growth in tumor cells ~~to secreted and transmembrane polypeptides and to nucleic acid molecules encoding those polypeptides~~. Also provided herein are vectors and host cells comprising those nucleic acid sequences, chimeric polypeptide molecules comprising the polypeptides of the present invention fused to heterologous polypeptide sequences, antibodies which bind to the polypeptides of the present invention and to methods for producing the polypeptides of the present invention.